

UPI-107

(MUZZLING)

WASHINGTON--DEFENSE SECRETARY McNAMARA TODAY APPROVED A COMMITTEE OF PROMINENT AMERICANS TO STUDY THE DEPARTMENT'S TROOP EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS.

HE ACTED IN ADVANCE OF A SENATE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED "MUZZLING" OF MILITARY MEN, THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATING TROOPS AND THE PARTICIPATION OF MILITARY MEN IN SEMINARS ON COLD WAR PROBLEMS.

THE NEW STUDY GROUP WILL BE HEADED BY CARL E. BUNNETHAM, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMPION PAPER CO. AND A FORMER IOWA UNIVERSITY RECTOR. NAMED THE "ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NON-MILITARY INSTRUCTION," IT WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING HERE JAN. 22.

SEN. JOHN C. STROMIS, D-MISS., CHAIRMAN OF A SPECIAL SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE, WILL OPEN HEARINGS THREE DAYS LATER ON THE "MUZZLING" CHARGES AILED BY SEN. STROM THURMOND, D-S.C., AND OTHERS.

THURMOND INFORMED OF McNAMARA'S ACTION, CALLED IT A "STANDARD BUREAUCRATIC RESPONSE TO PUBLICIZED REVELATIONS OF SHORTCOMINGS." HE IS A MEMBER OF THE INVESTIGATING GROUP.

THURMOND, ASSERTING THAT "THE TIME FOR POSITIVE ACTION IN THIS AREA IS ALREADY LATE," SAID THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIME FOR STUDY SINCE THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR. HE SAID RECOMMENDATIONS MADE THEN NEVER WERE IMPLEMENTED.

"INSTEAD," THURMOND SAID, "IN THE PAST YEAR THE TROOP INDOCTRINATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DILUTED BY ACTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT WHICH SEEM TO DE-EMPHASIZE TRAINING TROOPS ABOUT THE ENEMY, WHICH POSES SUCH A REAL AND TOTAL THREAT TO OUR COUNTRY."

McNAMARA TOLD MEMBERS OF THE STUDY GROUP IN A LETTER THAT THE TRAINING OF TROOPS WAS A "VITAL ELEMENT IN OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE."

THE DEFENSE CHIEF SAID THE GROUP WOULD NOT "CONCERN ITSELF WITH WHAT INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES MAY WRITE OR SPEAK ABOUT."

ONE MEMBER IS ADM. ARLEIGH A. BURKE, FORMER CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, WHO RAN INTO DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING SOME OF HIS SPEECHES APPROVED EARLY IN THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION. HE RETIRED LAST AUGUST.

THE COMMITTEE, EXPECTED TO REPORT TO McNAMARA BY NEXT JULY 1, WAS TOLD TO DEAL WITH THREE QUESTIONS:

--WHAT ARE THE APPROPRIATE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF NON-MILITARY INSTRUCTION PROGRAMS FOR ARMED FORCES MEMBERS?

--WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

--HOW CAN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMS BE MEASURED?

--WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE IN PRESENT ASSIGNMENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR NON-MILITARY INSTRUCTION WITHIN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT?

THE MUZZLING ISSUE FLARED AS A RESULT OF THURMOND'S COMPLAINTS AND THE UPROAR LAST YEAR OVER FORMER MAJ. GEN. EDWIN A. WALKER'S TROOP INFORMATION PROGRAM WHEN HE COMMANDED THE 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN GERMANY.

WALKER RESIGNED HIS COMMISSION AFTER THE ARMY SAID HE HAD MADE INAPPROPRIATE REMARKS ABOUT NOTED AMERICANS AND HAD SOUGHT TO INFLUENCE THE MOODS OF HIS TROOPS.

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